

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

***MICHIGAN TRIAL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECTS: 2001 FOLLOW-UP
ASSESSMENT REPORT***

***APPENDICES I-Q:
RESULTS OF 2001 SURVEY OF
KEY STAKEHOLDERS***

September 2001

Demonstration Project Follow-Up Evaluator
David C. Steelman, Principal Court Management Consultant

Vice President
Daniel J. Hall

COURT CONSULTING SERVICES DIVISION
1331 Seventeenth Street, Suite 402
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 293-3063

This document was prepared in accordance with Contract No. SCAO-2001-53 (July 23, 2001) between the Michigan State Court Administrative Office and the National Center for State Courts. The points of view reported in this document are those of the persons who responded to a survey of key stakeholders prepared and distributed by the Michigan State Court Administrative Office, as analyzed and summarized by the National Center for State Courts, and they do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan State Court Administrative Office, or the Michigan trial courts serving as trial court consolidation demonstration courts. The Michigan State Court Administrative Office grants the National Center for State Courts a royalty-free, nonexclusive license to use this document if it enters the public domain.

**MICHIGAN TRIAL COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS:
2001 FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**APPENDICES I-Q:
RESULTS OF 2001 SURVEY OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. Survey Recipients and Respondents	1
Appendix I. Grand Summary of Key Stakeholder Survey Responses for All Court Consolidation Demonstration Projects, by Court	I-1
Appendix J. Grand Summary of Key Stakeholder Survey Responses for All Court Consolidation Demonstration Projects, by Stakeholder Group . . .	J-1
Appendix K. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Barry County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	K-1
Appendix L. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Berrien County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	L-1
Appendix M. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Iron County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	M-1
Appendix N. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Isabella County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	N-1
Appendix O. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Lake County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	O-1
Appendix P. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey for Washtenaw County Court Consolidation Demonstration Project	P-1
Appendix Q. Results of Key Stakeholder Survey For Court Consolidation Demonstration Project In 46 th Circuit	Q-1

APPENDICES I-Q: RESULTS OF 2001 SURVEY OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

I. Introduction

In mid-June 2001, the Michigan State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) began planning for a follow-up assessment of the experience in seven courts that have been demonstration sites for experimentation with trial court consolidation -- Barry County, Berrien County, Iron County, Isabella County, Lake County and Washtenaw County, and the 46th Circuit (which includes Otsego, Kalkaska, and Crawford Counties). Based on SCAO experience with responding to requests for data from the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan State Legislature on the benefits or drawbacks from court consolidation, SCAO determined that it would be important to learn what key stakeholders think of the projects now that they have been in operation since 1996 (since 1999 in Iron County).

To learn the views of stakeholders, SCAO developed a 30-question survey instrument and distributed it to key demonstration project stakeholders. SCAO engaged the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct an independent assessment of the demonstration projects based on the information provided by the demonstration courts and by the survey respondents. Stakeholders in each demonstration project sent their survey responses directly to the NCSC consultant conducting the follow-up assessment. Individual survey respondents are not identified in this report.

II. Survey Recipients and Respondents

The survey instrument was sent to persons in each of the locales served by the demonstration project. The persons that SCAO defined as “key stakeholders” are persons who are involved with the demonstration projects in some fashion and have had some opportunity to observe their development, implementation, operation, and effects, but who at the same time are not *part of* the demonstration projects as judges, court officials, or court staff members. The key stakeholders in each demonstration project jurisdiction who were asked to respond to the survey included (a) the local bar president; (b) the

chairman of the board of county commissioners; (c) the prosecuting attorney; (d) the county clerk; and (e) the sheriff. Optional survey respondents also included local law enforcement officials, the local FIA director (involved in family court matters) and the local Department of Corrections supervisor.

A total of 47 stakeholders responded to the survey. By demonstration court, the respondents included

- 9 from Barry County;
- 5 from Berrien County;
- 6 from Iron County;
- 5 from Isabella County;
- 7 from Lake County;
- 6 from Washtenaw County; and
- 9 from the 46th Judicial Circuit.

By stakeholder category, the respondents included

- 8 county commissioners (including both board chairs and other commissioners);
- 6 county administrators (a total including one “county coordinator” and one “county controller”);
- 7 county clerks;
- 7 sheriffs or sheriff’s office representatives;
- 6 prosecuting attorneys;
- 9 leaders of the private bar; and
- 4 others (including one public defender, one FIA director, one DOC supervisor, and one state police official).

The detailed results of the survey are presented here. Appendix I presents a grand summary of survey responses by demonstration court. Appendix J gives a grand summary of survey responses by stakeholder group. Appendices K-Q summarize the survey responses in each individual demonstration court.

APPENDIX I.

GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT

**APPENDIX I. GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Response Grand Totals (*three stakeholders did not respond to this question)

More Efficient		Less Efficient		About the Same	
39		1		4	
Demo Court	More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same		
1. Barry County	9	0	0		
2. Berrien County*	2	1	1		
3. Iron County	6	0	0		
4. Isabella County	5	0	0		
5. Lake County	7	0	0		
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1		
7. 46 th Circuit**	5	0	2		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
44		0		2	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion		
1. Barry County	9	0	0		
2. Berrien County*	3	0	1		
3. Iron County	6	0	0		
4. Isabella County	4	0	1		
5. Lake County	7	0	0		
6. Washtenaw Co.	6	0	0		
7. 46 th Circuit	9	0	0		

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
42		0	5
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	4	0	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	0	3
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit	9	0	0

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)			
Faster		Slower	About the Same
41		0	5
Demo Court	Faster	Slower	About the Same
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	4	0	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	5	0	0
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit*	5	0	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
40		3	4
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	3	2	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	5	0	0
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit	5	1	3

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
35		3	9
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	2	0	3
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	4	0	1
5. Lake County	5	0	2
6. Washtenaw Co.	2	3	1
7. 46 th Circuit	7	0	2

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Response Grand Totals (*four stakeholders did not respond to this question)			
Positive		Negative	Little or None
38		1	4
Demo Court	Positive	Negative	Little or None
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	5	0	0
3. Iron County*	5	0	0
4. Isabella County*	2	0	2
5. Lake County	6	0	1
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	1	1
7. 46 th Circuit**	7	0	0

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)			
Improved		Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
30		4	12
Demo Court	Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
1. Barry County	8	0	1
2. Berrien County*	2	1	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	1	2
5. Lake County	4	0	3
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	1	2
7. 46 th Circuit	5	1	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

<i>Survey Question 9.</i> The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
28		3	16
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	2	1	2
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	1	2
5. Lake County	3	0	4
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	0	3
7. 46 th Circuit	3	1	5

<i>Survey Question 10.</i> Services to the public have improved.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
42		0	5
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	4	0	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	5	0	0
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit	6	0	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
37		2	8
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	2	1	2
3. Iron County	5	0	1
4. Isabella County	2	0	3
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	1	1
7. 46 th Circuit	8	0	1

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
36		3	8
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	4	1	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	1	0	4
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	2	1
7. 46 th Circuit	6	0	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
32		3	12
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	7	1	1
2. Berrien County	5	0	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	0	3
5. Lake County	6	0	1
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	0	3
7. 46 th Circuit	3	2	4

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
34		3	10
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	7	1	1
2. Berrien County	4	0	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	1	2
5. Lake County	6	0	1
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	0	2
7. 46 th Circuit	5	1	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

<i>Survey Question 15.</i> Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	
31		7	
No Opinion		9	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	8	1	0
2. Berrien County	2	3	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	1	2
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	2	1	3
7. 46 th Circuit	4	1	4

<i>Survey Question 16.</i> Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	
41		4	
No Opinion		2	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	4	1	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	4	0	1
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	1	0
7. 46 th Circuit	6	2	1

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
37		2		7	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree		No Opinion	
1. Barry County	9	0		0	
2. Berrien County	2	0		3	
3. Iron County	6	0		0	
4. Isabella County	2	0		3	
5. Lake County*	6	0		0	
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	1		1	
7. 46 th Circuit	8	1		0	

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Response Grand Totals (*two stakeholders indicated that quality is the same)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
29		2*		16	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree		No Opinion	
1. Barry County	9	0		0	
2. Berrien County	3	0		2	
3. Iron County	5	0		1	
4. Isabella County*	0	1*		4	
5. Lake County*	4	1*		2	
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	0		3	
7. 46 th Circuit	5	0		4	

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
26		1	20
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	5	0	4
2. Berrien County	3	0	2
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	1	2
5. Lake County	4	0	3
6. Washtenaw Co.	3	0	3
7. 46 th Circuit	3	0	6

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
36		0	11
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	8	0	1
2. Berrien County	3	0	2
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	5	0	0
5. Lake County	6	0	1
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	0	2
7. 46 th Circuit	4	0	5

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

<i>Survey Question 21.</i> Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree	Disagree		No Opinion
37	0		10
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	3	0	2
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	5	0	0
5. Lake County	3	0	4
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit	6	0	3

<i>Survey Question 22.</i> Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.			
Response Grand Totals			
Agree	Disagree		No Opinion
32	2		13
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	7	0	2
2. Berrien County	3	1	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	3	0	2
5. Lake County	4	0	3
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	0	2
7. 46 th Circuit	5	1	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
32		3	12
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	8	0	1
2. Berrien County	4	1	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	2	0	3
5. Lake County	4	0	3
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1
7. 46 th Circuit	3	2	4

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
43		0	4
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	5	0	0
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	4	0	1
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	6	0	0
7. 46 th Circuit	6	0	3

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder's only response was, "He's the judge")

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
27		5		14	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion		
1. Barry County	8	0	1		
2. Berrien County	2	0	3		
3. Iron County	5	0	1		
4. Isabella County	1	2	2		
5. Lake County*	4	1	1		
6. Washtenaw Co.	4	1	1		
7. 46 th Circuit	3	1	5		

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Response Grand Totals

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
37		3		7	
Demo Court	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion		
1. Barry County	7	1	1		
2. Berrien County	3	0	2		
3. Iron County	6	0	0		
4. Isabella County	3	1	1		
5. Lake County	7	0	0		
6. Washtenaw Co.	5	0	1		
7. 46 th Circuit	6	1	2		

**APPENDIX I (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY COURT
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)			
Very Successful		Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
33		1	12
Demo Court	Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
1. Barry County	9	0	0
2. Berrien County	3	1	1
3. Iron County	6	0	0
4. Isabella County	1	0	4
5. Lake County	7	0	0
6. Washtenaw Co.	2	0	4
7. 46 th Circuit*	5	0	3

APPENDIX J.

GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

**APPENDIX J. GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
(N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Response Grand Totals (*three stakeholders did not respond to this question)

More Efficient		Less Efficient		About the Same	
39		1		4	
Stakeholder Group	More Efficient	Less Efficient		About the Same	
1. County Commrs.	8	0		0	
2. County Admrs.	5	0		0	
3. County Clerks	5	0		2	
4. County Sheriffs	5	1		0	
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0		1	
6. Bar Leaders	8	0		0	
7. Others	3	0		1	

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
44		0		2	
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree		No Opinion	
1. County Commrs.	8			0	
2. County Admrs.	5			1	
3. County Clerks	7			0	
4. County Sheriffs	6			1	
5. Pros. Attorneys	6			0	
6. Bar Leaders	8			0	
7. Others	4			0	

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
42		0	5
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	4	0	4
2. County Admrs.	6	0	0
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	6	0	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	6	0	0
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	4	0	0

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)			
Faster		Slower	About the Same
41		0	5
Stakeholder Group	Faster	Slower	About the Same
1. County Commrs.	8	0	0
2. County Admrs.	5	0	0
3. County Clerks	6	0	1
4. County Sheriffs	5	0	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	6	0	0
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	2	0	2

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
40		3	4
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	8	0	0
2. County Admrs.	5	0	1
3. County Clerks	6	1	0
4. County Sheriffs	4	2	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	6	0	0
6. Bar Leaders	8	0	1
7. Others	3	0	1

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
35		3	9
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	6	1	1
2. County Admrs.	4	0	2
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	5	0	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	1	1
6. Bar Leaders	7	1	1
7. Others	2	0	2

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Response Grand Totals (*four stakeholders did not respond to this question)

Positive		Negative		Little or None	
38		1		4	
Stakeholder Group	Positive	Negative		Little or None	
1. County Commrs.	6	1		0	
2. County Admr.s.	4	0		1	
3. County Clerks	6	0		0	
4. County Sheriffs	6	0		1	
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	0		1	
6. Bar Leaders	8	0		1	
7. Others	4	0		0	

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)

Improved		Not Improved		Stayed About the Same	
30		4		12	
Stakeholder Group	Improved	Not Improved		Stayed About the Same	
1. County Commrs.	4	2		2	
2. County Admr.s.	6	0		0	
3. County Clerks	4	1		2	
4. County Sheriffs	3	1		3	
5. Pros. Attorneys	3	0		3	
6. Bar Leaders	6	0		2	
7. Others	4	0		0	

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
28		3	16
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	6	1	1
2. County Admrs.	6	0	0
3. County Clerks	3	1	3
4. County Sheriffs	3	1	3
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	0	2
6. Bar Leaders	5	0	4
7. Others	1	0	3

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
42		0	5
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	7	0	1
2. County Admrs.	5	0	1
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	5	0	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0	1
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	4	0	0

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
37		2	8
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	5	1	2
2. County Admrs.	6	0	0
3. County Clerks	3	1	3
4. County Sheriffs	6	0	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0	1
6. Bar Leaders	8	0	1
7. Others	4	0	0

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
36		3	8
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	4	1	3
2. County Admrs.	6	0	0
3. County Clerks	5	0	2
4. County Sheriffs	5	1	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	1	0
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	2	0	2

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
32		3	12
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	3	0	5
2. County Admr.	5	1	0
3. County Clerks	6	0	1
4. County Sheriffs	5	0	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	1	0
6. Bar Leaders	6	1	2
7. Others	2	0	2

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
34		3	10
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	5	1	2
2. County Admr.	3	0	3
3. County Clerks	4	0	3
4. County Sheriffs	5	1	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	1	0
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	3	0	1

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
31		7	9
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	5	0	2
2. County Admrs.	5	0	2
3. County Clerks	3	3	1
4. County Sheriffs	4	2	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0	1
6. Bar Leaders	7	2	0
7. Others	2	0	2

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
41		4	2
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	8	0	0
2. County Admrs.	5	0	1
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	6	1	0
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	2	0
6. Bar Leaders	8	1	0
7. Others	3	0	1

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
37		2		7	
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree		No Opinion	
1. County Commrs.	5	1		2	
2. County Admrs.	6	0		0	
3. County Clerks	4	1		2	
4. County Sheriffs	6	0		1	
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0		1	
6. Bar Leaders	7	0		1	
7. Others	4	0		0	

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Response Grand Totals (*two stakeholders said that quality is the same as before)

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
29		2*		16	
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree		No Opinion	
1. County Commrs.	3	1		4	
2. County Admrs.	3	0		3	
3. County Clerks	3	0		4	
4. County Sheriffs	5	0		2	
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0		1	
6. Bar Leaders	8	0		1	
7. Others	2	1		1	

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
26		1	20
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	5	0	3
2. County Admrs.	3	1	2
3. County Clerks	2	0	5
4. County Sheriffs	4	0	3
5. Pros. Attorneys	3	0	3
6. Bar Leaders	7	0	2
7. Others	2	0	2

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
36		0	11
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	7	0	1
2. County Admrs.	4	0	2
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	5	0	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	5	0	1
6. Bar Leaders	7	0	2
7. Others	1	0	3

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
37		0	10
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	8	0	0
2. County Admr.	5	0	1
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	6	0	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	0	2
6. Bar Leaders	5	0	4
7. Others	2	0	2

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
32		2	13
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	8	0	0
2. County Admr.	3	0	3
3. County Clerks	5	0	2
4. County Sheriffs	4	1	2
5. Pros. Attorneys	3	0	3
6. Bar Leaders	7	0	2
7. Others	2	1	1

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
32		3	13
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	5	0	3
2. County Admrs.	3	0	3
3. County Clerks	7	0	0
4. County Sheriffs	4	2	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	1	1
6. Bar Leaders	7	0	2
7. Others	2	0	2

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Response Grand Totals			
Agree		Disagree	No Opinion
43		0	4
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. County Commrs.	78	0	0
2. County Admrs.	5	0	1
3. County Clerks	6	0	1
4. County Sheriffs	7	0	0
5. Pros. Attorneys	6	0	0
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	2	0	2

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder's only response was, "He's the judge")

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
27		5		14	
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion		
1. County Commrs.	5	2	1		
2. County Admrs.	3	2	1		
3. County Clerks	5	1	1		
4. County Sheriffs	4	0	3		
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	0	2		
6. Bar Leaders	4	0	4		
7. Others	2	0	2		

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Response Grand Totals

Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
37		3		7	
Stakeholder Group	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion		
1. County Commrs.	7	1	0		
2. County Admrs.	5	1	0		
3. County Clerks	4	1	2		
4. County Sheriffs	4	0	3		
5. Pros. Attorneys	6	0	0		
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0		
7. Others	2	0	2		

**APPENDIX J (continued). GRAND SUMMARY OF KEY
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESPONSES FOR ALL COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, BY
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (N = 47 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are: *See responses by demonstration court for this question in Appendices K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q.*

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Response Grand Totals (*one stakeholder did not respond to this question)			
Very Successful		Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
33		1	12
Stakeholder Group	Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
1. County Commrs.	5	0	3
2. County Admrs.	4	0	1
3. County Clerks	3	0	4
4. County Sheriffs	5	1	1
5. Pros. Attorneys	4	0	2
6. Bar Leaders	9	0	0
7. Others	3	0	1

APPENDIX K.

**RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**APPENDIX K. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY
FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
9	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #7:</u> The efficiency of the cooperation evident in the consolidation provides improved communication and fairness to those before the court.		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #7:</u> Judges are knowledgeable and considerate.		

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comments		
<u>Respondent # 6:</u> Court staff seem knowledgeable and able from an administrative standpoint. <u>Respondent #7:</u> Court staff members are an excellent reflection of our court system. The staff members are considerate and appropriate to the public. <u>Respondent #8:</u> The training provided by the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) has been very helpful and useful. I believe, however, that someone with a social work background, and not a clerical employee, should be conducting PPO (civil domestic violence) interviews.		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
9	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #9:</i> Sometimes cases move too fast – there are times when prosecution is forced into a plea bargain to get a case off the docket.		

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
9	0	0

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
8	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #5:</i> Court communication with the Board of County Commissioners is great!		

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> I don't see the court's expenses, but it would make sense that efficiency would ultimately be cost-effective. The trial court has made my office more cost-effective. <i>Respondent #7:</i> I cannot address cost-effective impact in courts themselves, although efficiency is certainly positive in our office operations.		

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> That service to the public has improved is confirmed both by our office observations and as related to our office by the public.		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #8:</u> Interaction is promoted by the makeup of the Judicial Council. For example, the County Clerk is a voting member of the Council.		

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	1	1
Comments		
<u>Respondent # 1:</u> Scheduling, rescheduling and access are easier. <u>Respondent # 2:</u> I find no change. The courts in Barry County have always been responsive. <u>Respondent #8:</u> There is a more open line of communication.		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	1	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #7</u>: Communication availability is significant. <u>Respondent #8</u>: PPO's (civil domestic violence cases) require a great deal of time in the clerk's office, and I sometimes feel that the court does not recognize this fact. <u>Respondent #9</u>: At times, speed and monetary considerations take precedence over the best resolution.</p>		

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	1	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u>: Most are consistent, except that probate court will not let an attorney call to schedule a hearing. The notice of hearing in blank has to be filed, and a hearing date assigned, taking sometimes days to get a hearing date. <u>Respondent #8</u>: Gaining greater consistency is still a work in progress, more with case file management than with courtroom procedures.</p>		

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #8:</i> There is some tension in that clerk's office staff members sometimes feel that they receive "hand-me-down" equipment, while "court staff members" receive new equipment (e.g., computers and printers).		

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> Agree in every aspect.		

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	4
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> To the limited applicability ADR involves criminal matters.		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	0	1

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> The only problem I have suggested is a file coding system, so the judge would be known by file number alone. Some courts will assign an additional prefix or suffix to identify the judge. Sometimes either clients or attorneys appear in the wrong court, always assuming that the circuit court judge handles all divorces.		

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	2

Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> I have been informed that at some time in the future a cross-trial-court scheduling system may be put into place so I won't be scheduled by the court to be in two different courtrooms at the same time. (Most of the time this problem is easily resolved, but doing so takes time away from business.)		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> Cooperation and communication.		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	0	1

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	1	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #6:</i> Over time and through attrition the court has committed that duplication of administrative services will be reduced and eliminated.		

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	Security is a concern, particularly with the new "Carrying Concealed Weapon" law. Courts should have metal detectors at all entrances.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	See comments to Questions 15, 21 and 22.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	I believe the court's operations are efficient and accommodate all individual needs. No major changes required.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #7</i>	I am unaware of any criticism, constructive or otherwise, of the consolidation of our courts.
<i>Respondent #8</i>	Central filing, all court operations in the same building, one trial court administrator.
<i>Respondent #9</i>	No response given.

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	Cases that need timely attention receive it.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	Having judges available for quick resolution of trials or hearings. Uniformity of most court documents.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	1. Consistency in decisions regarding individual cases. Clients have basic understanding of what to expect. 2. Court system as a whole is more efficient, due to consistency of operations. 3. Court personnel, attorneys and public have more knowledge and information.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #7</i>	Every aspect.
<i>Respondent #8</i>	Improved caseflow management, reduced costs, better communication.
<i>Respondent #9</i>	Interaction of the three judges with each other's cases. Judicial council provides for better interaction with the court.

**APPENDIX K (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BARRY COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	In our court system there are few disadvantages, if any. However, if the judges, their staff members, or future judges didn't cooperate, problems would obviously occur.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	Not always knowing which judge is handling a particular case.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No response given.
<i>Respondent #7</i>	None known.
<i>Respondent #8</i>	Lack of space in one building for all court-related activities. I think it has been difficult to train court personnel to think of the courts as one trial court rather than separate units, and I think there is still some resistance to that issue.
<i>Respondent #9</i>	See comments to Questions 4 and 14.

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
9	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #3:</i> The court consolidation project has been very successful in our community. I wish all jurisdictions had the same benefits our community has as a result of this project.		

APPENDIX L.

**RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**APPENDIX L. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
2	1	1
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2</u> : When judges are assigned to a division other than their primary assignment, it is sometimes necessary to return to a case to correct matters, which of course is less efficient. <u>Respondent #3</u> did not give a response to this question.		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	1
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2</u> : Judges are knowledgeable in most cases. They would benefit from more training when working in divisions other than their usual assignments. <u>Respondent #3</u> did not give a response to this question.		

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2</u> : Most staff are very knowledgeable, and if they don't know an answer they direct a person to someone who does know. <u>Respondent #3</u> : Attorneys are usually able to get almost all their questions answered from court staff.		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses			
Faster	Slower		About the Same
4	0		1
Respondent	Faster	Slower	About the Same
Comments			
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> When hearing multiple types of cases involving the same parties, family judges move cases faster. <u>Respondent #3:</u> In the civil division, attorneys consistently get trial dates set in the original scheduling order in 12-14 months from filing the complaint. This seems faster than under the old system. However, with only two civil division judges, the dockets fill up quickly; and when trials need to be adjourned, they need to be adjourned for a long time (6 months or longer). While the time to get a hearing date (30 days) is still longer than optimal at times, it seems similar or slightly better than before. <u>Respondent #4:</u> Constant backlog of court appearances for inmates, thus creating jail overcrowding issues because cases take longer for final disposition.</p>			

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	2	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Cross training would assist everyone and make the process more efficient. <u>Respondent #3:</u> It appears that consolidation has greatly improved the operation of the courts. Allowing judges to specialize in specific areas of the law has been a great benefit.</p>		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3
Comment		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> This assists the judges because they are familiar with all aspects of the cases/families.		

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
5	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #3:</u> The establishment of a family division has had a positive impact on the civil division, as judges now handle civil cases without the burden of also handling family division issues. It also seems to make great sense to consolidate all family issues into one court and in front of one judge.		

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
2	1	1
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> There is still some room for improvement since there are sometimes “glaring” gaps in communication. <u>Respondent #3</u> did not give a response to this question. <u>Respondent #4:</u> Constant confusion with the courts on scheduling court appearances for inmates lodged in the county jail.		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> The clerk's office now has staff assigned to all three divisions, and they are in three different locations. When staff members were in one location, everyone was cross-trained and this made for a much more effective and, therefore, more cost effective operation. (On the plus side, however, the new court technology has eliminated having the same defendant information entered by various departments.)</p>		

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> There are fewer court delays, because judges are being assigned where they are needed. <u>Respondent #3:</u> The public should have a better sense of which judges handle which issues and are therefore more informed and better able to understand the operations of the court system.</p>		

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Services are the same to my organization.</p>		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> Communication is somewhat improved.		

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #3:</u> While I am not sure it has changed the way we do business, it has improved it by allowing us to work with the judges in the civil division of the trial court.		

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1
Comment		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> Most of the time, cases get the attention they require.		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	3	0
Comments		
<p><i>Respondent #2:</i> Court procedures and the subsequent paperwork vary depending on the individual judge. <i>Respondent #3:</i> The procedures in civil division and family court appear quite different.</p>		

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	0
Comment		
<p><i>Respondent #4:</i> Scheduling of court appearances is confusing – what area are inmates to be present for their court appearances.</p>		

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> The quality has improved when judges are working in their normally assigned divisions.		

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Our criminal justice computer technology has made “Real Time” information available to other departments and to the public. This new technology has also eliminated having the same defendant information entered by various departments.		

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	1	1

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Case status and registers of actions are available system-wide in real time.		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> The chief judge involves the appropriate managers and staff when making decisions. Sometimes he needs to involve front-line staff more.		

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	No response.
Respondent #2	Request and consider input from front-line staff when making major changes. Require consistency in court procedures by all the judges.
Respondent #3	Give an assistant to judges' assignment clerks so their multiple tasks can be handled more efficiently. Figure a way to allow hearings on motions to regularly be scheduled quicker than 30+ days.
Respondent #4	No response.
Respondent #5	No response.

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	Reduces the number of appearances necessary on any particular case. Certainly the court is now more "user friendly."
Respondent #2	Judicial assignment to specific divisions improves the speed of case handling.
Respondent #3	Judge and court specialization!
Respondent #4	No response.
Respondent #5	No response.

**APPENDIX L (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR BERRIEN COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	Initially, the court's staff had difficulty adjusting to and learning new procedures. That does not appear to be a problem now.
Respondent #2	Cross training is needed for court staff. Judicial training is needed when judges switch divisions.
Respondent #3	None.
Respondent #4	Scheduling court officers is problematic due to court schedules being inconsistent. Stability in operations would certainly benefit overall system, as well as help scheduling.
Respondent #5	No response.

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

APPENDIX M.

**RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR IRON
COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT**

**APPENDIX M. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY
FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u><i>Respondent #1:</i></u> The availability of judges has definitely increased since the bench was unified. Scheduling matters is now a matter of days as opposed to weeks prior to the pilot project. <u><i>Respondent #4:</i></u> The increase in court efficiency has been dramatic since implementation of the new trial court system.</p>		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u><i>Respondent #1:</i></u> The judge is knowledgeable in all areas of the law, as he was a probate judge prior to the pilot project. <u><i>Respondent #4:</i></u> Since implementation of the trial court system, with one judge serving more than one division of court, it has become obvious the court is more knowledgeable. This is a great advantage in complex cases involving more than one division of court.</p>		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> All court staff members have adapted to the changes in a very professional manner and are helpful and knowledgeable in carrying out their duties.		

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> We used to have to wait up to three months to schedule hearings in the circuit court, as the judges rotated through the three counties in their circuit. Now hearings can be scheduled within days. It's a great improvement. <i>Respondent #4:</i> The improvement has been noticeable and continues to get better.		

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since Consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Cases move more quickly through the system, in particular criminal cases, as there is no delay between bindover from district court to arraignment in circuit court. <i>Respondent #4:</i> There is no comparison. Access to a full-time judge serving multiple divisions of the court is a great benefit.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The trial court judge handles all aspects of the family court, and often there may be two cases pending at the same time (i.e., divorce and neglect). Knowing the “entire story” gives the judge more information upon which to base his decisions and thus serves the ends of justice.		

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
5	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> See the reasons stated in comment to Question 6. <i>Respondent #4:</i> Possibly because this person’s office does not deal much with family matters, he or she did not respond to this question.		

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The court and judge have always worked closely with the bar to see that justice is accessible to all citizens in the county.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><i>Respondent #1:</i> There is no duplication of effort wasted, as the judge and his staff members are all in tune with the caseloads and scheduling requirements of statutes or court rules. <i>Respondent #5:</i> I do not have exact figures, but with less travel time and costs for the judges and court reporters, there should be a large savings in that area alone. Being a trial court has allowed the clerk's office to put the cases on computer, and that is a big savings in time and work for the staff members of that office.</p>		

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><i>Respondent #1:</i> Scheduling hearings is now done in a much more timely manner. The judge is also available for such emergency hearings as those for PPO's (civil domestic violence). <i>Respondent #4:</i> We hear many positive comments from members of the public impressed by improvements brought about by the new consolidated trial court system. <i>Respondent #5:</i> Cases go through the court quicker than they used to, so they are resolved quicker, which I believe is beneficial.</p>		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> All members of the local bar would certainly agree that service has been improved.		

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> As an attorney you are able to provide your clients with a better timetable for when things will happen in the court. Hearings can now be scheduled to be held in a matter of days, not months.		

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> It's made the practice of law in this county more efficient. <i>Respondent #4:</i> Ready access has made it much easier to do business with the court. <i>Respondent #6:</i> The greatest change is that the court is available.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The court has a good balance of its time go see that all areas of the law are equally served.		

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The court is consistent no matter what type of case it is hearing.		

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> It is absolutely true that scheduling has improved. <i>Respondent #2:</i> Scheduling has improved dramatically. <i>Respondent #3:</i> Scheduling is greatly improved. <i>Respondent #4:</i> This improvement has been dramatic. The court is now able to better accommodate scheduling problems; and cases, on average, move faster as a result.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Prior to making any changes, the judge will always talk it over with members of the bar.		

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> With the court's increased efficiency, the public has better access to the courts, and cases are heard in a more timely manner. <i>Respondent #5:</i> We've always had qualified judges, and this is continuing in the Trial Court Project.		

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The court encourages all parties to make use of all available ADR resources. <i>Respondent #5:</i> There seems to be more of this being used.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Hearings are held in a more timely manner, so that cases are heard more promptly. <i>Respondent #5:</i> Public access is greater especially for PPO's (civil domestic violence cases) and emergency questions.		

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The clerks make good use of available technology and provide valuable assistance to the bar and public. <i>Respondent #5:</i> We never would have been able to afford the computer otherwise.		

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Yes, flexibility has increased and has made the system work more efficiently.		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> Court staff make all public information accessible. <u>Respondent #6:</u> While this respondent agrees generally with this statement, court dispositions are sometimes slower getting to his office.</p>		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> This court has only one judge, so that leadership of other judges is not an issue. <u>Respondent #6:</u> The chief judge does an excellent job.</p>		

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> This court has only one judge, so that consensus decision-making is not an issue. <u>Respondent #5:</u> The judge includes all levels of the court system personnel to get input in matters.</p>		

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> All court personnel are cross-trained in the unified court, so there is always someone available to address your needs.		

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	As we have only one judge, I can't think of any improvements on the present system.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	No opinion.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	I am not qualified to propose court operational changes.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	Continue progress in computer automation. Move to a Windows-based docket program with access available to persons and agencies dealing with the court.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	Have a public computer terminal for lawyers and others to research cases, get filing dates, etc.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	Once a person is sentenced, it would be good to have a copy of the court disposition order for the correctional facility. Also, for persons sentenced to prison, it would be good to have packets prepared to expedite the transport of these people.

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	Our one judge handles all aspects of family law, and as such is better informed as to the “whole story”.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	Availability of one judge is distinctly advantageous.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	Judge availability in the county.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	See comments in response to earlier questions.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	Availability of the judge, speediness of case resolution, computerization of records.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	Having the judge and the court available.

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	I can’t think of any.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	None come to mind.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	Clerk’s office staff used to be in court more, and they had more knowledge of each case than just the filings. When someone called and asked about the progress of a case, or some other matter, clerk’s office staff members were more able to answer such questions. Now, clerk’s office staff members are hardly ever in court, so that they just have the filings or the court report to rely on for information. Yet with the speediness of case processing, work in the clerk’s office has increased, so that staff members might not be able to spend as much time in court. Things are different than they were before.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No response.

**APPENDIX M (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR IRON COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
6	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> I have not heard one complaint from any member of the local bar since this pilot project was started. For all the reasons previously stated, I believe it should be continued. <u>Respondent #4:</u> For all of us who deal with the court on a day-to-day basis, it is hard to imagine how we managed without the new trial court system. <u>Respondent #6:</u> I would give the project an “A+” rating. The judge and staff do an excellent job. I hope the program continues.</p>		

APPENDIX N.

**RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**APPENDIX N. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
5	0	0

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #5:</i> Improvement could be made in this area.		

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
5	0	0
Comment		
<i>Respondent 2:</i> My impression is that this has speeded up the process, but I have no direct knowledge of that. <i>Respondent #5:</i> Improvement could be made in this area.		

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
2	0	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #3</i> did not provide a response to this question.		

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
2	1	2

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1	0	4

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> It would appear that each case gets the attention it deserves, but I have no direct evidence of this. <i>Respondent #3:</i> Rocket docket.		

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
0	1	4

Comment

Respondent #2: Quality of justice would be difficult to judge or measure. I have never had a sense that the quality of justice was anything but good here.

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	2

Comment

Respondent #1: The court has not yet made good use of ADR options because space has been a problem. Now they would like to move in the direction of more ADR use.

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	0

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	2

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	0	3

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	1

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1	2	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Perhaps there is some consensus decision-making, but my impression is that the chief judge is fairly authoritarian.		

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	1	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> There has been streamlining to some extent.		

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	No response.
Respondent #2	No response.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	No comment.
Respondent #5	No response.

**APPENDIX N (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 5 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	Rather than dealing with three judges regarding budget, personnel, and other administrative matters, the county administrator now deals directly with the court administrator.
Respondent #2	No response.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	No comment.
Respondent #5	Judges being able to cover each others' courtrooms; centralization of business office; courtroom recording technology and videotaping; business office personnel cross trained.

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	I believe it would be beneficial to have the county clerk's responsibilities associated with the circuit court assigned to the trial court, although I do understand this would likely involve an amendment to the state constitution.
Respondent #2	No response.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	No comment.
Respondent #5	Business office personnel received added responsibility without proper help; not currently able to consolidate District Court and Circuit Court criminal file management without having to transfer actual files back and forth; inconsistency among all three courts.

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>

APPENDIX O.

RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

**APPENDIX O. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY
FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
7	0	0
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> In a county with a small population, this setting is far and away the most efficient I've seen. I'd like to see an arrangement such as this in all the smaller counties.		
<u>Respondent #6:</u> Less coordination of schedules and calendars is required.		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> We are fortunate in this county, because the judge was previously a general practitioner and had a good working knowledge of a wide range of legal issues.		

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comment		
<u>Respondent #2:</u> Again we are very fortunate in this county because the judge and all staff are very "user friendly."		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
7	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #3:</u> Cases move faster due to the full-time availability of the trial court judge, rather than having one part-time circuit judge and one part-time district judge. <u>Respondent #6:</u> Less coordination required. <u>Respondent #7:</u> Greater speed may be the most important improvement.</p>		

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #6:</u> Fewer people to coordinate with. <u>Respondent #7:</u> Previously, one district judge did part, one family court judge did part, and one probate judge the juvenile work. That allowed the defense attorney to play all courts against each other.</p>		

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	2

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
6	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> There was little or no impact because one judge handles all matters under the pilot program.		

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
4	0	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Communication and coordination has always been very good.		

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	4
Comments		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> I do not have any information on this subject, but I would guess that this setup has to be cheaper to run. <i>Respondent #3:</i> Approximate savings to Lake County – about \$100,000. <i>Respondent #6:</i> A better arrangement and fewer people to coordinate budgets and paperwork with.		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #3:</i> With “one-stop shopping” concept, the public is able to deal with all matters, at one time, in one facility. <i>Respondent #6:</i> Generally, services are provided faster and more efficiently.		

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> The change is that now a lawyer only has to deal with one judge. <u>Respondent #3:</u> The addition of a trial court administrator has taken a lot of the court system burden away from the county clerk. <u>Respondent #5:</u> Change is only in the matter of how the court is administratively set up. <u>Respondent #6:</u> Less time-consuming to coordinate budgets and/or personnel issues and paperwork.</p>		

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u> strongly agrees with this statement. <u>Respondent #3:</u> I am not familiar enough with the “family court” field to answer this question. <u>Respondent #7:</u> While this is true, the courts were very good at it before.</p>		

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #7:</u> Procedures are now consistent, but they were not before.</p>		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #3:</i> Court cases appear to be moving through the system effectively.		
<i>Respondent #6:</i> Less coordination required.		

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #3:</i> Communications are always open between our office and the court.		
<i>Respondent #6:</i> Court is generally responsive. <i>Respondent #7</i> did not comment on why he or she gave no response to this question.		

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	2
Comment		
<i>Respondent #5</i> disagrees because the quality of justice has always been met.		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	3
Comments		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Mediation is utilized – other forms and ADR plans are being explored as well. <i>Respondent #7:</i> Use of ADR options is the same as before consolidation.		

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	1
Comments		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> The fact that Lake County has a new courthouse has helped in this regard as well. <i>Respondent #3:</i> Access is accomplished by having a full-time judge available for Lake County. <i>Respondent #7:</i> Before consolidation, some lay people did not understand the separation of the probate, family, district and circuit courts.		

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	4
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> Technology was used effectively before, just as now.		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	3
Comments		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Scheduling is quite efficient. <i>Respondent #7:</i> Technology was used effectively before, just as now.		

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #7:</i> Technology was used effectively before, just as now.		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Chief judge's leadership is excellent. <i>Respondent #2:</i> The judge does a very good job and works well with staff and those who appear before him.		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #4</u> did not answer this question except to observe, “He’s the judge.”</p> <p><u>Respondent #6:</u> The chief judge makes his own decision after listening to appropriate information and research.</p>		

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	0
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #7:</u> This is perhaps the biggest savings.</p>		

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	The only change I would make is to turn the pilot program into a permanent arrangement.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	At the present time I probably would not change anything; but if more funds were to be made available, I would like to see one centrally-located receptionist for the trial court.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	Nothing.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	N/A.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #7</i>	No response.

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	Judge is available; judge is accountable; justice is quicker.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	One home county judge who knows the cases and can handle all aspects of family matters; much more efficient.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	Lake County has experienced approximately \$100,000 in savings of general fund expenses.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	Judge always available right down the street; one office for all pleadings; more court dates available; quicker case resolution; one continuance means a short delay, not months to when out-of-county judge is available.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	Streamlined administration; less need to coordinate schedules and calendars; reduced staff manning levels.
<i>Respondent #7</i>	No response.

**APPENDIX O (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR LAKE COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 7 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	None that I am aware of.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	If you were to get a judge who was hard to work with, it would make everyone's life extremely difficult. Luckily, we do not have that problem right now.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	Computer system is not accessible in the clerk's office, but only in trial court, which is located one floor up.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	None.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	(1) Personalities and power struggles; (2) pay differentials – court personnel are usually paid higher for same level of work as other courthouse offices (i.e., clerk, treasure, or prosecutor's personnel).
<i>Respondent #7</i>	No response.

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
7	0	0
Comments		
<p><u><i>Respondent #2:</i></u> I have practiced in numerous counties, and this set up is by far the most efficient. The judge knows the cases, hearings are held on time, and there is good communication. I would be extremely disappointed if this setup is discontinued, as it serves me and my clients extremely well. <u><i>Respondent #3:</i></u> I feel the court consolidation project in Lake County was one of the greatest concepts to take place. <u><i>Respondent #4:</i></u> This system should be made permanent for Lake County. <u><i>Respondent #6:</i></u> Overall, I would rate court consolidation as excellent for rural counties. It allows streamlining of administration, reduction of personnel, and better coordination of facilities and court calendars. <u><i>Respondent #7:</i></u> This system should be the standard in small counties. When a small county was joined with a large county, the small county was ignored.</p>		

APPENDIX P.

RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

**APPENDIX P. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT CONSOLIDATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> Judges routinely handle matters for other judges. The magistrates rotate to assure arraignments and juvenile matters are handled promptly.		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Comment		
<i>Respondent #3:</i> Training needs to be emphasized, so that all judicial officers complete the required paperwork in the same way.		

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
5	0	1
Comment		
<u><i>Respondent #1:</i></u> The combination preliminary examination/plea/circuit court arraignment has shortened the time period considerably for our defendants.		

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comments		
<u><i>Respondent #1:</i></u> Transition difficulties were overcome effectively and efficiently.		
<u><i>Respondent #3:</i></u> Streamlining is due in large part to the chief judges and administrators.		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	3	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1</u>: The same judge or caseworker handles these cases to the maximum extent feasible. <u>Respondent #2</u>: I both agree with the above statement (because some matters are handled by the same judge) and disagree (because others are not). Domestic violence (DV) cases, particularly those involving child witnesses, are not cross-assigned to the family or juvenile judge who is handling other aspects of the family's case. I feel that DV cases involving minors should be cross-assigned.</p>		

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
4	1	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1</u>: It has resulted in the entire reorganization of our juvenile court and brought a new infusion of technology that has made the court more efficient. <u>Respondent #3</u>: It is getting better.</p>		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
3	1	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1</u>: Our office has a close working relationship with the chief judge and participates actively in committees formed to deal with issues involving the unified court. <u>Respondent #3</u>: Again, this is due to the chief judge and court administrator. <u>Respondent #5</u>. We should meet more often. <u>Respondent #6</u>: Court may be communicating with administration, but don't communicate/dialogue with Board of County Commissioners.</p>		

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	3
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #1</u>: Shorter time frames = less incarceration = tremendous cost savings. In addition, matters don't need to be postponed or delayed because an individual judge is absent.</p>		

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #5</u>: Our consolidated preliminary examination docket has improved service.</p>		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	1

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	2	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> We have a close working relationship that allows for feedback by all participants.		

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> It has made the overall judicial system more effective for all who interact with it.		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Cases do get the attention they deserve, except that the speed with which cases get attention in the office of the Friend of the Court remains less than optimal.</p> <p><u>Respondent #5:</u> For the most part, cases get the attention necessary, although this is very judge dependent.</p>		

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
2	1	3
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> There is consistency to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate.</p> <p><u>Respondent #2</u> agrees somewhat with this statement. Some judges still do things differently – there is not <u>complete</u> standardization of all procedures, but most procedures are the same. <u>Respondent #3</u> both agrees and disagrees with this statement. Consistency is much better than when the pilot project started, but we still have room to improve.</p>		

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	1	0
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #6:</u> According to what we are being told, scheduling practices have improved.</p>		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #5:</i> This question cannot be answered easily.		

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	3

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Some courts make better use of ADR than others. Once our ADR plan is approved, I believe more courts will make more use of these options.		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> Our web site has opened up the court processes to the community at large and provides an easily accessible resource to learn about the unified court.</p> <p><u>Respondent #5:</u> Facilities problems are troubling.</p>		

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1:</u> The web site has made a difference. <u>Respondent #2:</u> Use of technology in the courtroom by attorneys and litigants remains difficult given the outdated facilities we have to work with. Use of technology by attorneys would speed up trials and save money for all those involved.</p>		

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	2

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> While agreeing with the statement, this respondent indicates that certain employees in the clerk's office will not readily share docket information and sometimes indicate that there is a \$5 charge for information.		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	0
Comments		
<i>Respondent #1:</i> The current chief judge has done and continues to do an outstanding job in providing strong leadership. Also, the judge leading the civil/criminal division. <i>Respondent #2:</i> The current chief judge has been stronger than strong in his leadership role, even during times when he has been under attack from multiple interest groups. He has really taken the helm and steered the court ably throughout the consolidation process.		

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #1</u>: The current chief judge has allowed the bar to be active participants in unified court matters. <u>Respondent #2</u>: The chief judge seeks consensus whenever possible.</p>		

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	1

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	Make the court's computer information system more user friendly to the maximum extent feasible. Encourage electronic filing of documents and give specific information to the bar to encourage participation.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	Assuming that this hypothetical question includes an unlimited budget, I would demolish one district court building, renovate the main county courthouse, and do all the other things recommended in the court facilities study that was released prior to the millage last fall.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	Figure out a way to make the judges play by the rules.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	I would have more communication groups/individual advocating for the court. More two-way communication with the Board of County Commissioners (BOC). Fewer decisions being made with BOC to accept. More input from community that interacts with the court.

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	(1) ability to consolidate cases for sentencing/plea purposes throughout various jurisdictions; (2) better communication and more consistent procedures between the various courts and divisions; (3) ability to function through judge rotations, even when a judge is incapacitated for a lengthy period.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	Advantages are those described in this survey.
<i>Respondent #3</i>	(1) better use of staff; (2) streamlining of court activities; (3) better customer service.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No opinion.

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
<i>Respondent #1</i>	The current chief judge and the judge leading the civil/criminal division are to be commended for their communication skills, leadership strength and vision.
<i>Respondent #2</i>	I would suppose that a judge who does not want to work with other judges must do so anyway – i.e., disgruntled judges. (I'm not saying that we have any such judges – just that it's a potential disadvantage.)
<i>Respondent #3</i>	More judges to train.
<i>Respondent #4</i>	No response.
<i>Respondent #5</i>	Inconsistency.
<i>Respondent #6</i>	No opinion except as answered earlier.

**APPENDIX P (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY COURT
CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
(N = 6 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Very Successful	Not Very Successful	Somewhat Successful
2	0	4
Comments		
<p><u><i>Respondent #1:</i></u> Much of the success can be particularly attributed to the efforts of current judge leaders to make the process a collaborative one between the bench and bar.</p> <p><u><i>Respondent #3:</i></u> The consolidation project was stagnant for a number of years, but under the current leadership we are starting to move in a positive direction. <u><i>Respondent #5:</i></u> This is a work in progress.</p>		

APPENDIX Q.

**RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
IN 46TH CIRCUIT**

**APPENDIX Q. RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FOR
COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 1. The cross-assignment and coverage of court cases by judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) seem to be:

Responses		
More Efficient	Less Efficient	About the Same
5	0	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u>: The only slow down in the system appears to be people failing to appear for their court dates. People who are arrested must receive a message deterring them from failures to appear. <u>Respondent #5</u>: Cross-assignment and coverage are somewhat more efficient. There is generally better coverage of weekend arraignments, PPO (civil domestic violence) enforcement, and vacation schedules. Not much difference, efficiency-wise, in the general day-to-day court functioning. <u>Respondent #7</u> and <u>Respondent #9</u> did not respond to this question.</p>		

Survey Question 2. Judges and judicial officers (referees and magistrates) appear knowledgeable regarding the various matters they handle.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u>: The judges and judicial officers are very good in this area. <u>Respondent #5</u>: Judges are generally knowledgeable; there is a noticeable difference, though, when judges get out of the areas that they usually do.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 3. Court staff seem knowledgeable and have the ability to provide the information I need to business at the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
9	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u>: Court staff members are very helpful. <u>Respondent #5</u>: Court staff members have borne the brunt of the work changes. On occasion this has led to either a lack of knowledge or a “we never did it this way before” attitude. For the most part, court staff members have been exemplary under difficult circumstances.</p>		

Survey Question 4. Cases move through the system:

Responses		
Faster	Slower	About the Same
5	0	3
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2</u>: Although the pace is about the same, it is getting better. See comment to Question 1 about failures to appear. <u>Respondent #5</u>: There is more emphasis from the top on case movement. I don’t know that quality is always served when quantity is emphasized. Case movement initiatives generally turn into a “bean counters run the world” mentality, which requires serious changes once it becomes entrenched. The emphasis <u>must</u> remain on <u>quality</u>. <u>Respondent #7</u> did not give a response to this question.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 5. Court operations are more streamlined and more efficient since consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	1	3
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> It appears that everyone is “on the same page.” <u>Respondent #9:</u> Sometimes have three courtrooms going at once in one county, drawing personnel from other duties.</p>		

Survey Question 6. Cases involving family matters (such as divorce, support, juvenile delinquency, child abuse or neglect) are handled by the same judge or caseworker.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
7	0	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> This person offers no opinion because he has no dealings with family matters in the court. <u>Respondent #5:</u> While this is true, you also have these same workers doing so many other or unrelated tasks that they don’t always “grow” an expertise – everyone is a generalist, and they don’t have time to become experts.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 7. The impact on the court of the establishment of a family division has been:

Responses		
Positive	Negative	Little or None
7	0	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #4:</u> The positive impact is more so for constituents than for court. <u>Respondent #5:</u> This has elevated the family division to equality with the other divisions, but the staff now are not separated out from other division staff, so that no expertise develops. <u>Respondent #7</u> and <u>Respondent #9</u> did not give a response to this question.</p>		

Survey Question 8. Communication and coordination between the court and my agency has:

Responses		
Improved	Not Improved	Stayed About the Same
5	1	3
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Meetings with one of the judges have resolved several issues. This has helped agency practices and procedures match those of the court. <u>Respondent #5:</u> Communication has always been good, because both sides are willing to talk, and not because of the institutional changes.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 9. The trial court is more cost-effective to operate.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	1	5
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #4:</u> The trial court appears to be more cost-effective in its operations, but this respondent offers no opinion because the trial court budget is set with another county as the host county. <u>Respondent #9:</u> Consolidation has been more expensive for court security. There is a lack of notification of dismissed cases. Some of these problems are from the prosecutor's office in my county.</p>		

Survey Question 10. Services to the public have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	3
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Service provision is more efficient.</p>		

Survey Question 11. Services to my organization and other local agencies have improved.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	0	1
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Service provision is more efficient. <u>Respondent #5:</u> The reorganization has made everyone willing to look at positive changes, rather than relying on "that's how it's always been done."</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 12. Court consolidation has had a positive impact on the way I interact with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	3
Comments		
<i>Respondent #5:</i> See this respondent's comment to Question 8. <i>Respondent #9:</i> The court administrator does a good job; but he is so overworked that timeliness is a factor.		

Survey Question 13. The consolidated trial court has changed the way I do business with the court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	2	4

Survey Question 14. Each type of case gets the attention it deserves.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	1	3
Comments		
<i>Respondent #5:</i> District court is often rushed because it takes many of the felony cases instead of circuit court. I believe the district court should take felony pleas, but that all sentencing for felonies should be done in circuit court. <i>Respondent #9:</i> Each case gets the attention it deserves, but the prosecutor's office seems to be behind.		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 15. Court procedures are consistent among court divisions.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	1	4
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> This person has not interacted with all divisions and has no opinion about consistency of procedures. <u>Respondent #8:</u> This is an area that still needs work. We would like to deal with one office in our county for all district and circuit court matters.</p>		

Survey Question 16. Scheduling practices have improved as a result of the project.

Responses			
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	
6	2	1	
Respondent	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Comments			
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Court dockets have been backed up because of failures to appear. This has led to having several trials scheduled for the same day, which leads to plea bargains. In picking and scheduling cases, the court could be more responsive to law enforcement in regard to vacations. This could be worked out with law enforcement agencies.</p> <p><u>Respondent #5:</u> This respondent disagrees because too much is being dumped into district court. Otherwise, scheduling is pretty good. <u>Respondent #8:</u> Scheduling practices have improved for the most part. We still seem to have multiple courts scheduled on occasion, which leaves us struggling to find and supply court officers.</p> <p><u>Respondent #9:</u> One exception here involves notification from the court for court officers and law enforcement officers about their cases.</p>			

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 17. The court is responsive to the needs of my organization.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
8	1	0
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> Aside from the scheduling issues mentioned in comment to Question 16, the court appears to have a good working relationship with my organization. <u>Respondent #5:</u> Judges and administrators are willing to listen. <u>Respondent #9:</u> We have a good rapport with judges and court administrators and can work through any adversities.</p>		

Survey Question 18. The quality of justice has improved as a result of court consolidation.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	4
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #2:</u> When cases are not slowed down by failures to appear, there is somewhat faster resolution of cases. <u>Respondent #5:</u> While quality has improved, it would improve more if the district court judge and staff were not overworked. There should be more district court probation officers and more judge time in my county.</p>		

Survey Question 19. The court makes good use of alternative dispute resolution options.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	0	6

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 20. The trial court is more accessible to the public.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
4	0	5
Comment		
<i>Respondent #9:</i> Fridays are weak for judges, but overall accessibility is good.		

Survey Question 21. Technology is being used more effectively in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #9:</i> There are troubles with cooperation from the software vendor.		

Survey Question 22. Use of technology has improved scheduling practices in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	1	3
Comment		
<i>Respondent #2:</i> Still having problems with scheduling for law enforcement officers in conflict with vacations.		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 23. Use of technology allows information to be exchanged easily, and information is readily available when I need it.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	2	4
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #5:</u> The prosecuting attorney's office has been promised many things, but follow-through hasn't occurred yet so that the office is not yet "in the loop." <u>Respondent #9:</u> No. There are troubles with cooperation from the software vendor</p>		

Survey Question 24. The chief judge exhibits strong leadership in the trial court.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	0	3

Survey Question 25. For the most part, the chief judge operates the court using consensus decision-making.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
3	1	5
Comment		
<p><u>Respondent #5:</u> Not aware of how decisions about court operation are made.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 26. The trial court has streamlined administration, such that duplication of administrative services has been reduced or eliminated.

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
6	1	2
Comments		
<p><u>Respondent #5:</u> While administration has been streamlined, the court should be careful that quality is not sacrificed for the sake of “streamlining.” <u>Respondent #8:</u> There are some additional consolidation possibilities.</p>		

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 27. If I were in charge of the court, I would make the following changes to improve the court's operations:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	I would order protracted divorce cases to mediation. These cases are draining resources.
Respondent #2	First, for people who fail to appear, impose stiffer sanctions and penalties as a deterrent. The court is not doing this now. Second, order pretrial conferences, which would make the court more efficient and open up the court docket. Third, enhance community service penalties.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	Need stronger communication. Bring clerks in for decision-making. Clerk involvement in decision-making would strengthen communications, since clerk's offices are the "front line" and hear citizen complaints. Clerks usually are not now involved in decision-making unless their offices are expected to perform.
Respondent #5	Allow district court to take felony pleas, with sentencing in circuit court. Have more district court probation officers and district court judge time in my county.
Respondent #6	No response.
Respondent #7	No response.
Respondent #8	The district court office would handle and coordinate court matters in all courts including family court. Notification of warrants and other activity by the police would all go through the district court clerical staff. All sentencing paperwork would also be handled by one office.
Respondent #9	No response.

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 28. Some advantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	No response.
Respondent #2	More efficient, more streamlined.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	Reduced jury terms.
Respondent #5	No response.
Respondent #6	No response.
Respondent #7	No response.
Respondent #8	I have seen a significant improvement in that many cases are quickly and efficient handled. People interested in taking care of their cases in a timely manner can do so.
Respondent #9	No response.

**APPENDIX Q (continued). RESULTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY FOR COURT CONSOLIDATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN 46TH CIRCUIT (N = 9 Survey Respondents)**

Survey Question 29. Some disadvantages of court consolidation are:

Description	Response
Respondent #1	No response.
Respondent #2	None.
Respondent #3	No response.
Respondent #4	There is division between county and court employees. Court employees act superior to county employees, and county clerk hears complaints about this each day.
Respondent #5	No response.
Respondent #6	No response.
Respondent #7	No response.
Respondent #8	I don't know of any disadvantages.
Respondent #9	No response.

Survey Question 30. I would rate the overall success of the court consolidation project as:

Responses		
Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
5	0	3
Comments		
<u>Respondent #2</u> : The project still needs work in certain areas. Yet some of this work would be needed even if the courts were not consolidated. <u>Respondent #7</u> did not give a response to this question.		